

## Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9588

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, BM, CH

SUBJECT: BCP STATEMENT ON DEATHS OF THAKINS ZIN AND CHIT

REF: FBIS BANGKOK 171500Z MAY 1975

1. REF SUMMARIZES STATEMENT BY BURMA COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND SPEECH BY NEW PARTY CHAIRMAN THAKIN BA THEIN TIN, ADMITTING DEATHS IN MARCH OF FORMER CHAIRMAN THAKIN ZIN AND POLITBURO MEMBER THAKIN CHIT, AND EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE IN ULTIMATE BCP VICTORY.
2. AS BCP VICE-CHAIRMAN, ONLY SURVIVING POLITBURO MEMBER, AND CHAIRMAN OF OVERSEAS (I.E., PRC-BASED) BCP, BA THEIN TIN WAS INEVITABLE SUCCESSOR TO PARTY CHAIRMANSHIP. INDEED, PRC WOULD PROBABLY HAVE PREFERRED THAT HE RATHER THAN THAKIN ZIN SUCCEED THAKIN THAN TUN ON LATTER'S DEATH IN 1968. BA THEIN TIN HAS BEEN IN CHINA SINCE 1953 AND HIS SELECTION AS PARTY CHAIRMAN CONSOLIDATES PRC CONTROL OVER WHAT REMAINS OF BCP OUTSIDE THE NORTHEAST COMMAND AREA.
3. WE NOTE THAT BA THEIN TIN PROMISES COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP ALONG WITH BCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE, MAKING NO MENTION OF SMALLER "POLITBURO". BA THEIN TIN IS ONLY SURVIVOR OF THE EIGHT BCP LEADERS

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WHO MADE UP POLITBURO AS OF 1962, AND IT SEEMS LIKELY THIS HAS

NOW BEEN ABOLISHED. MORE INTERESTING IS FACT THAT NO NEW APPOINTMENTS TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE WERE ANNOUNCED. OF THE 14 NON-POLITBURO CC MEMBERS KNOWN TO US SINCE 1962, NINE ARE DEAD (MOSTLY VICTIMS OF PARTY PURGES), TWO HAVE SURRENDERED, AND REMAINING THREE ARE MENTIONED IN BA THEIN TIN'S SPEECH. THAKIN PE TINT AKA YEBAW BA AKA YEBAW SAN WIN IS THOUGHT TO BE IN PRC; BO MYO MYINT IN PRC OR WITH NORTHEAST COMMAND; AND YEBAW KYAW MYA, WHO WAS EXPELLED FROM CC IN 1968, HEADS UNDERGROUND ARAKANESE COMMUNIST PARTY. HIS INCLUSION IN LIST MAY INDICATE OFFER OF REINSTATEMENT. YEBAW THAN SHWE WAS ONE OF TWO CADRES SENT TO PRC IN 1949, WHEN BCP FIRST ESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH CHINESE PARTY, AND PROBABLY HAS BEEN THERE EVER SINCE. (WE HAVE RECORD OF A BO THAN SHWE COMMANDING SMALL BCP UNIT IN PEGU YOMA IN MID-1960'S, BUT BELIEVE THIS PROBABLY A DIFFERENT MAN.) THAN SHWE MAY BE NEW ADDITION TO CC, OR MAY HAVE BEEN ADDED AT SOME TIME IN PAST. IN EITHER CASE, IT SEEMS SURPRISING THAT MORE NEW CC MEMBERS HAVE NOT BEEN COOPTED, ESPECIALLY FROM NORTHEAST COMMAND.

4. BA THEIN TIN CALLS ON BCP MEMBERS TO "SIMULTANEOUSLY UPROOT REVISIONISM AND OPPOSE LEFTIST-DOGMATISM," AS WELL AS TO "INTEGRATE" ARMED STRUGGLE "CORRECTLY WITH OTHER STRUGGLES." THIS LANGUAGE SEEMS AIMED AT THE BLOODY INTRA-PARTY PRUGES WHICH BEGAN IN 1967 AND WERE STILL CONTINUING IN 1973, AND WHICH WERE MAJOR FACTOR IN DISINTEGRATION OF BCP IN PEGU YOMA. PRC THROUGH BA THEIN TIN APPEARS TO BE CONVEYING THE MESSAGE THAT THESE MUST STOP, AND THAT BCP MUST DEVOTE INCREASED ATTENTION TO ORGANIZATIONAL AND POLITICAL EFFORTS. SIMILARLY, BA THEIN TIN'S CONFIDENCE IN EVENTUAL DOWNFALL OF GUB IS BASED ON THE "ENORMOUS PROBLEMS" IT FACES, SEVERE HARDSHIPS OF PEOPLE, AND WORKERS' AND STUDENTS' AGITATION IN 1974; HE CONCEDES THAT BCP ARMED STRUGGLE ONLY "FURTHER AGGRAVATED" GUB'S PROBLEMS WHICH WERE INHERENT OR OF ITS OWN MAKING.

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